

MINUTES
CITY OF TARPON SPRINGS PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE
December 15, 2009

The Tarpon Springs Public Art Committee (PAC) met in the Tarpon Springs Public Library Conference Room on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 with members Marleen Gravitz, Sue Geier, and Barbara Schnipper present. Also present were City Staff Advisor Kathy Monahan, Assistant City Attorney Shauna Morris, and City Liaison Denise Manning. Board members Mic Poppa, June Fox, Beverly Kurpinski, and Maria Bobotas were absent as was Urban Planner/City Advisor Ginny Haller. Guests included Vice Mayor Robin Saenger and Siobhan Nehin of Garden Fairies.

Chairperson Marleen Gravitz called the meeting to order at 10:10 am. The minutes from the meeting of November 17, 2009 were approved as read. Barbara Schnipper moved to accept, seconded by Sue Geier, all in favor. The January meeting of PAC will be held on the fourth Tuesday, January 26, 2010, rather than the third for the month of January only.

Siobhan Nehin introduced the work of the Garden Fairies, a volunteer organization which creates artistic gardens for public and private property owners. The Garden Fairies' next project will be a wall mural, combining mosaic tile and painting, on the exterior west wall of the Antique Asylum building. A small garden will be included in a portion of the City's parking lot adjacent to the wall. The design theme will reflect the history of the Fern Hotel which stood across Pinellas Avenue from the parking lot. Mother Meres, owner of the Fern, had a vegetable garden where the parking lot now exists. The Garden Fairies have raised the money for the project and will begin after the first of the year. Denise Manning will research the Fern Hotel and Mother Meres and provide information to Ms. Nehin and Kathy Monahan.

Other local projects in which the Garden Fairies have been involved were discussed as well as ideas for future projects. The work of the Garden Fairies coincides with the mission of PAC, and The Garden Fairies could partner with other groups, such as Tarpon High's Culinary Arts Program, Cops and Kids, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Rec. Department's Hot Seats.

Denise Manning was asked to introduce herself. Ms. Manning assumed PAC's City Liaison position vacated by Debbie Stott who moved out of state.

Shauna Morris mentioned a county-wide 'muralette' program. The discussion continued regarding use agreements with property owners, and means to ensure quality of art materials and methods.

Kathy Monahan proposed an education component be incorporated in the water tank design to aid grant approval.

Sue Geier suggested that the Recreation Department's Hot Seats be involved in the welcome mat project.

Robin Saenger discussed the City's entry points and the public art opportunities in those locations. Ms. Saenger focused on entry at the Anclote Bridge on Alt. 19 and the future entry point when Meres Boulevard is extended to Highway 19. Ms. Saenger also suggested that examples of other city's public art be posted on Tarpon's city website to garner enthusiasm for PAC's work.

PAC General Guidelines were reviewed and revised from the middle of page 17 through the middle of page 20. This draft document will continue to be revised at future PAC meetings. Upon completion, a final review will be done prior to approval and publication.

The meeting was officially adjourned at 11:58 a.m.